9.   (Currently Amended) A system for oversubscribing a group of M DSL modems comprising:

an interface coupled between the group of M DSL modems and an upstream data link;

a group of P <u>operation administration maintenance/embedded operations channel (OAM/EOC)</u> modems in communication with the group of M DSL modems; and

a switch connected to a plurality of N downstream data links, the group of M DSL modems, and the group of P OAM/EOC modems, a first downstream data link of the plurality of N downstream data links being coupled to a <u>first</u> customer premise equipment device, wherein full data rate transmission is achieved such that user traffic data is transferred over the first downstream data link between the <u>first</u> customer premise equipment device and the upstream data link via one of the group of M DSL modems, and a second downstream data link of the plurality of N downstream data links being coupled to a <u>second</u> customer premise equipment device, wherein synchronization data is transferred over a <u>the</u> second downstream data link between the <u>second</u> customer premise equipment device via one of the group of P OAM/EOC modems such that the <u>second</u> customer premise equipment device remains in a state as if connected to a DSL modem; and

wherein the switch dynamically reconfigures customer premise equipment device connections such that at least one of the ~~plurality of~~ *first and second* customer premise equipment devices is connected to either one of the group of M DSL modems or to one of the group of P OAM/EOC modems.

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10.   (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 9 further comprising means for

communicating <u>request-to-send / clear-to-send</u> (RTS/CTS) signals between <u>at least</u> ~~on~~ *one* of

the ~~plurality~~ *first and second* ~~the~~ customer premise equipment device<u>s</u> and either one of the group of M

DSL modems or one of the group of a P OAM/EOC modems.

11-15. (Cancelled)

16.   (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 9, wherein one or more of the

plurality of N downstream data links comprises a POTS line.

17.   (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 9, wherein the upstream data

link comprises: a POTS line, <u>an</u> optical fiber, a twisted pair conductor, ~~the~~ <u>a</u> public

switched telephone network, a T1 connection, a T3 connection, an ISDN connection, a

coaxial cable, an SHDSL link, an ADSL link, a VDSL link, an HDSL link, a V.90 link,

or an OCn link.

18.   (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 9, wherein M+P=N, and

wherein P is at least 1.

19.   (Currently Amended) A method for oversubscribing a group of M DSL

modems, comprising the steps of:

(a)   connecting a customer premise equipment device, according to the priority

and order of a request from the customer premise equipment device, either to a one of the

group of M DSL modems or to an <u>one of a group of P</u> operation administration maintenance /embedded operations channel (OAM/EOC) modem<u>s</u>;

(b)   transferring user traffic data for the customer premise equipment devices if the customer premise equipment device is connected to one of the group of M DSL modems<u>;</u>

(c)   transferring synchronization data for the customer premise *equipment* device if the customer premise equipment device is connected to the <u>one of the group of P</u> OAM/EOC modem<u>s</u>;

(d)   determining whether a time-out or a no-more-data condition exists if the customer premise equipment device is connected to one of the group of M DSL <u>modems</u>; and

(e) if the time-out or no-more-data condition exists, repeating steps (a)-(d), otherwise repeating steps (b)-(d).

20.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 19 wherein the connection of the customer premise equipment device to either the one of the group of M DSL modems or to the <u>one of the group of P</u> OAM/EOC modem is done at least in part in response to <u>request-to-send / clear-to-send</u> (RTS/CTS) signals.

21.   (Previously Presented)   The method of Claim 20 further comprising the step of embedding the RTS/CTS signals within superframes.